

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A network based method for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said method comprising:

receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service;

providing the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data;

receiving a customer first response based on the budgetary quote, the customer first response comprising a message to a manufacturer;

adjusting the budgetary quote based on the customer first response;

receiving a customer second response comprising a request for a contractual quote; and

providing, via the web, the customer a contractual quote based on the received customer second response.

2. (original) A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service comprises receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service.

3. (original) A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising prompting the customer to select a desired language from a plurality of languages.

4. (original) A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data comprises:

publishing the budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository; and

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote.

5. (currently amended) A network based method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein providing the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data further comprises:

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

~~receiving a customer response comprising at least one of a message to the manufacturer and a request for a contractual quote.~~

6. (original) A network based method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing the customer a contractual quote based on the received data comprises:

publishing the contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML contractual quote in a quote repository; and

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote.

7. (currently amended) A network based method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein providing the customer a contractual quote based on the received data further comprises:

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receiving a customer third response comprising at least one of a message to a the manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

8. (currently amended) A network based method for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a medical product and a medical service, said method comprising:

receiving data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service;

publishing a budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository;

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote;

providing the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL;

receiving a customer first response based on the budgetary quote, the customer first response comprising a message to a manufacturer;

adjusting the budgetary quote based on the customer first response;

receiving a customer second response comprising a request for a contractual quote;

publishing a contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

loading the XML contractual quote in a quote repository;

sending an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote;

providing the customer access to view the contractual quote via the URL; and

receiving a customer second response comprising at least one of a message to a ~~the~~ manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

9. (currently amended) A network based system for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said system comprising:

at least one device; and

a server connected to said device and configured to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service;

provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data;

receive a customer first response based on the budgetary quote, the customer first response comprising a message to a manufacturer;

adjust the budgetary quote based on the customer first response;

receive a customer second response comprising a request for a contractual quote; and

provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received customer second response.

10. (original) A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service, said server further configured to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service.

11. (original) A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said server further configured to prompt a customer to select a desired language from a plurality of languages.

12. (original) A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

publish the budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote.

13. (currently amended) A network based system in accordance with Claim 12 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

~~providing~~provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL;~~and~~

~~receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to the manufacturer and a request for a contractual quote.~~

14. (original) A network based system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

publish the contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote.

15. (currently amended) A network based system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said server further configured to:

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer third response comprising at least one of a message to a ~~the~~ manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

16. (currently amended) A network based system for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said system comprising:

at least one device; and

a server connected to said device and configured to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service;

publish a budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository;

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote;

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL;

receive a customer first response based on the budgetary quote, the customer first response comprising a message to a manufacturer;

adjust the budgetary quote based on the customer first response;

receive a customer second response comprising a request for a contractual quote;

publish a contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository;

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote;

provide the customer access to view the contractual quote via the URL; and

receive a customer second response comprising at least one of a message to a the manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

17. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program executable by a computer for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said program configured to instruct the computer to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a customer desired service;

provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data;

receive a customer first response based on the budgetary quote, the customer first response comprising a message to a manufacturer;

adjust the budgetary quote based on the customer first response;

receive a customer second response comprising a request for a contractual quote; and

provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received customer second response.

18. (original) A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired product and a

customer desired service, said medium further configured to receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service.

19. (original) A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said medium further configured to prompt a customer to select a desired language from a plurality of languages.

20. (original) A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

publish the budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote.

21. (currently amended) A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to provide the customer a budgetary quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

~~receive a customer response comprising at least one of a message to the manufacturer and a request for a contractual quote.~~

22. (original) A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 17 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

publish the contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository; and

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote.

23. (currently amended) A computer readable medium in accordance with Claim 22 wherein to provide the customer a contractual quote based on the received data, said medium further configured to:

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer third response comprising at least one of a message to a ~~the~~ manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.

24. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program executable by a computer for providing a customer with a quote for at least one of a manufactured product and a service, said program configured to instruct the computer to:

receive data relating to at least one of a customer desired medical product and a customer desired medical service;

publish a budgetary quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML budgetary quote in a quote repository;

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published budgetary quote;

provide the customer access to view the budgetary quote via the URL; and

receive a customer response based on the budgetary quote, the customer first response comprising a message to a manufacturer;

adjust the budgetary quote based on the customer first response;

receive a customer second response comprising a request for a contractual quote;

publish a contractual quote as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

load the XML contractual quote in a quote repository;

send an email alert to the customer, wherein said email alert comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicating a location of the published contractual quote;

provide the customer access to view the contractual quote via the URL; and

receive a customer second response comprising at least one of a message to a the manufacturer, an acceptance of the contractual quote, and a denial of the contractual quote.